

# Columbus Civil War Token Issuers

John Grether, Mary Ann Van Houton and maybe C.A. Wagner

# John Grether

May 22, 1826

14.  
Grether  
(Jean.)  
le 22 Mai  
1826.

DÉCLARATION, faite à la maison commune de Lobsheim — départ, du Bas-Rhin, pardevant  
l'Officier de l'État civil, à neuf heures du matin — le vingt trois du mois de Mai  
mil huit cent vingt-six, de la NAISSANCE d'un enfant du sexe masculin né en légitime mariage,  
Nier le vingt deux — du mois Mai — à une heure du soir — et  
nommé Jean.

A Prénoms et nom du DÉCLARANT Nicolas Grether

B Agé — de trente deux ans — domicilié à Lobsheim,  
Qualité ou profession, preposé des Douanes royales,

PÈRE de l'enfant : prénoms, nom, profession et domicile, Le déclarant,

C MÈRE de l'enfant : prénoms, nom et domicile, Marie Anne Huck âgée de vingt  
six ans, épouse du déclarant à Lobsheim,

L'accouchement a eu lieu en la maison N.° 32, maison de Louis Bitchij

Premier TÉMOIN : prénoms, nom, âge et profession, Antoine Pühl âgé de vingt huit  
ans, Sous-Lieutenant des preposés des Douanes royales

Deuxième TÉMOIN : prénoms, etc. Louis Bitchij âgé de quarante six ans  
Sergent de la Commune,

D L. deux — témoins domiciliés en cette mairie.

E Lecture faite, l'Officier de l'État civil a signé avec les comparants.

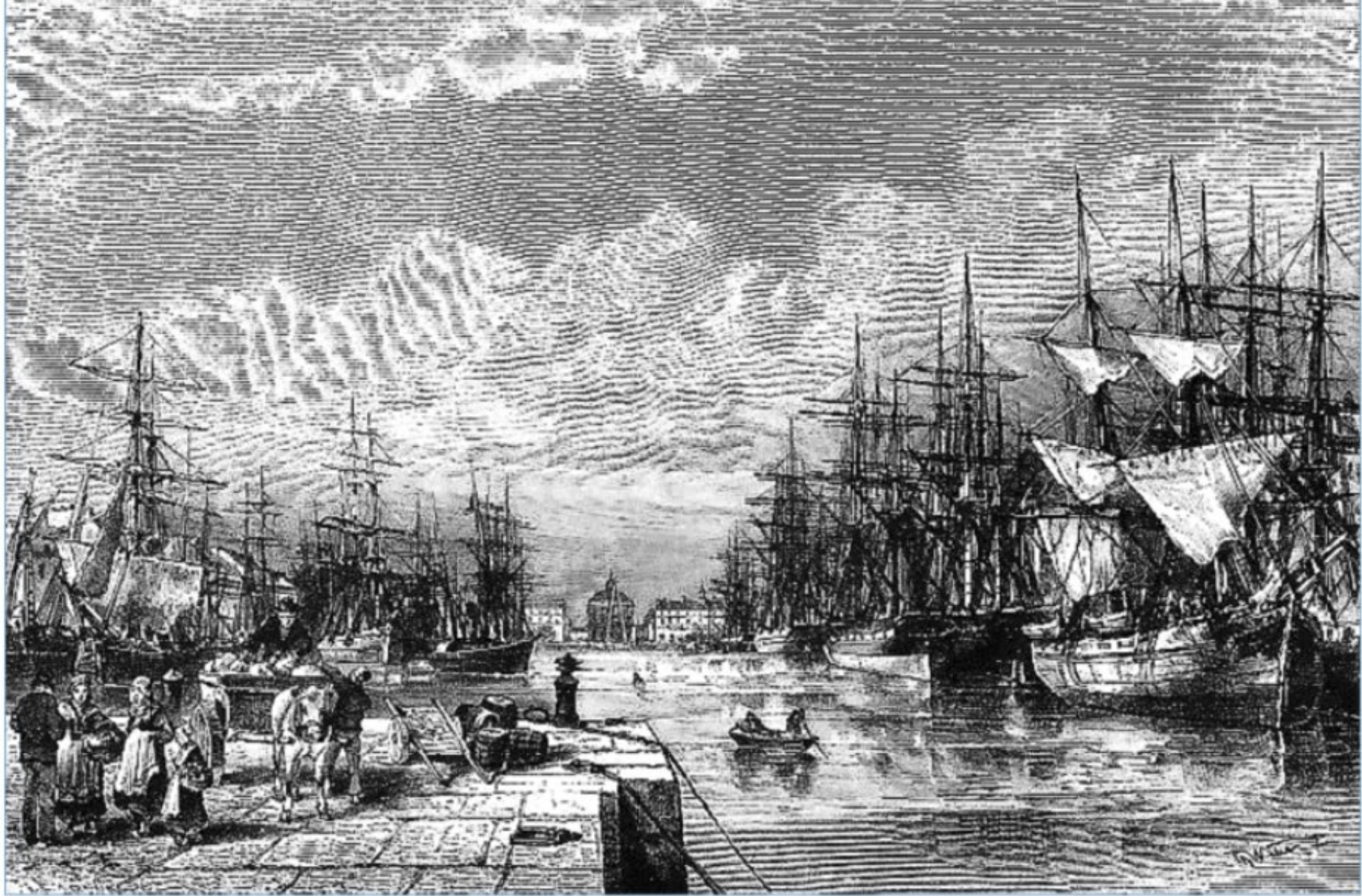
Grether Pühl Bitchij Maire, faisant les fonctions d'Officier de l'État civil.  
P. Mair

Image Index

► Information







**Le Havre as a migration port, circa 1850s.**

Joseph Morlent, Album du voyage au Havre et aux environs.





The American-owned ship  
was built in Newcastle, Me.,  
in 1825

Length: 106 feet

Width: 26 feet

Draught: 15

Six of the ships two abreast  
could rest comfortably in a  
basin the size of a football  
field.



Five to six weeks sail to New York



Ship: Adeline Port of New York June 25, 1833

Agnes	14	"	"	"	"	"
Martin	12	Male	"	"	"	"
Agnes	10	"	"	"	"	"
John	59	"	"	"	"	"
Madelene	56	female	"	"	"	"
Martin	28	Male	"	"	"	"
John	24	"	Labrum	None	Ohio	"
Julia	23	female	"	"	"	"
Martin	20	Male	"	"	"	"
Agnes	17	female	"	"	"	"
Gaspard	14	Male	"	"	"	"
Elizabeth Grether	65	"	Labrum	None	Ohio	"
Anna	55	female	"	"	"	"
Catharine	24	"	"	"	"	"
Charles	7	Male	"	"	"	"
Paul	5	female	"	"	"	"
Henry	5	Male	"	"	"	"
Gaspard	19	"	"	"	"	"
Martin	12	"	Labrum	None	Ohio	"
Elizabeth	44	female	"	"	"	"
Catharine	18	"	"	"	"	"
Gaspard	12	Male	"	"	"	"
Joseph	7	"	"	"	"	"
Martin	39	"	Labrum	None	Ohio	"
Marianne	38	female	"	"	"	"
Nichols	12	Male	"	"	"	"
Ferdinand	10	"	"	"	"	"
Catharine	5	female	"	"	"	"
John	11	Male	"	"	"	"
Elizabeth	3	female	"	"	"	"
Henry	37	Male	Labrum	None	Ohio	"
Julia	33	female	"	"	"	"
John	18	Male	"	"	"	"
Philipina	10	female	"	"	"	"
Julian	8	"	"	"	"	"
Charles	4	Male	"	"	"	"
Catharine	1	female	"	"	"	"
George	22	Male	"	"	"	"
Wm. Joseph	36	"	Labrum	None	Ohio	"
Martin	29	female	"	"	"	"
Catharine	5	"	"	"	"	"
Martin	3	"	"	"	"	"

141 passengers  
All bound for Ohio

12 Grethers

Jean Grether 42  
Elizabeth Grether 44  
Catherine Grether 18  
Gaspard Grether 12  
Joseph Grether 7

Nicholas Grether 39  
Marianne Grether 35  
Nicholas Grether 12  
Ferdinand Grether 10  
Catherine Grether 5  
Jean Grether 4  
Elizabeth Grether 3



# Traveling to Ohio



Sloop to 150 miles to Albany  
Erie Canal 350 miles to Lake Erie

Nine days after arriving in New York, the Grether families celebrated their first July 4 in America somewhere along the canal.

Schooner 200 miles to Cleveland  
Ohio canal boat 125 miles to Dresden  
Wagon 25 miles to Taylorsville



**THE FIRST SPRING ARRIVAL**

**J. & F. GRETHER,**  
**WHOLESALE AND RETAIL GROCERS,**  
**ATHENS, OHIO.**

ARE just receiving from the South the largest stock of *Family Groceries* ever offered in this market, which will be sold at the very lowest prices at wholesale and retail. Their stock consists in part of:

- 3 tons N. O., crushed and Havana Sugar,
- A large lot of Coffee and Teas,
- Spices, of all kinds and in great abundance,
- N. O. and Sugar House Molasses,
- Large quantity of Western Reserve Cheese,
- do do Sterine Candles,
- Choice Cavendish Tobacco—several qualities,
- Havana, regalia, principe and common cigars,
- Chocolate, salaratus, soaps, perfumeries, indigo,
- Mustard, madder, alluin, pepper-sauce, nuts, candies, oranges, lemons, figs, raisens, &c. &c. together with every other article pertaining to an establishment of the kind and the wants of the community.

We are also receiving a well-selected assortment of fresh **GARDEN SEEDS**, to all of which we invite the attention of the public, as we are determined to sell on the most favorable terms.

Athens, March 22, 1850. H. D.

**Great Sale of Real Estate.**  
**IRON, COAL, &c.**

Nicholas Grether died Oct. 8, 1846.

Widow Mary Ann and Ferdinand, 24, John, 22; and Elizabeth, 19. moved to Athens, Ohio, where John and Ferdinance opened a grocery store in 1850 or before

Navigation of the Des Moines R.



## First Steamboat Arrival !!

A FULL CARGO OF GOODS JUST RECEIVED

**By John Grether;**

Consisting of an endless variety of

**DRY GOODS,**

**FANCY DRESS GOODS,**

**NOTIONS,**

**GROCERIES,**

**BOOTS & SHOES,**

**HATS & CAPS,**

**QUEENSWARE,**

**HARDWARE,**

**IRON, &c., &c..**

which are being offered for sale at

**Wholesale and Retail,**

At unprecedented low rates for cash, or in exchange for country produce, Dry Hides &c., at cash prices. The public will please bear in mind that the **ONE PRICE SYSTEM** will be rigidly adhered to, and justice shown to all.

N. B. Cash paid for dry hides at 10 cents per pound.

**JOHN GRETHNER.**

Boonsboro Iowa April 12th 1858

In 1854 John Grether, just 28 but apparently well financed, joined a wave of settlers swiftly moving into the newly formed state of Iowa.

“All of our commercial towns were then on the Mississippi River and in touch with the steamboats It took 20 days to make a trip from Boone County to one of these commercial towns and back with an ox team,” N.E. Goldthwait recorded in his 1914 *History of Boone County Iowa*.

“From 3,000 to 4,000 pounds made a good load for two spans of oxen over the kind of roads we had in those days and the price paid for hauling was from \$2 to \$2.50 per hundred.”

John married Annie Dillon, daughter of Muskingum County Treasurer John Dillon on Feb. 21, 1860.

Their first child, John Dillon Grether, was born Feb. 15, 1861.



John announced the closing of his Iowa business on Dec. 8, 1862.

On Dec. 24, 1862, Ferdinand Grether placed an ad in *Der Westbote*, Columbus' German language newspaper, informing the citizens that he had purchased the "porcelain shop from the late Mr. Foster on the east side of High Street between Town and State streets."

The business lasted until at least 1866, when Ferdinand and John went their separate ways. John listed his business as real estate in the 1872 city directory.



Der Unterzeichnete setzt seine geehrten Landsleute achtungsvoll in Kenntniß, daß er das wohlbekannte **Porzellan Geschäft** des verstorbenen Herrn Foster an der Hochstraße, Ostseite, zwischen Town u. Statestraße, käuflich übernommen hat, und daß es sein Bestreben ist, durch freundliche Behandlung und billige Preise, sich das Wohlwollen seiner deutschen Landsleute zu erwerben. Sein Lager enthält

**großen Vorrath**  
von  
**Glas, Porzellan und Steinwaaren,**  
Messer und Gabeln, Präsentirtellern und zahllosen anderen Artikeln, die in sein Fach einschlagen. Er ersucht das Publikum achtungsvoll seine schöne und große Auswahl zu besehen und sich von den

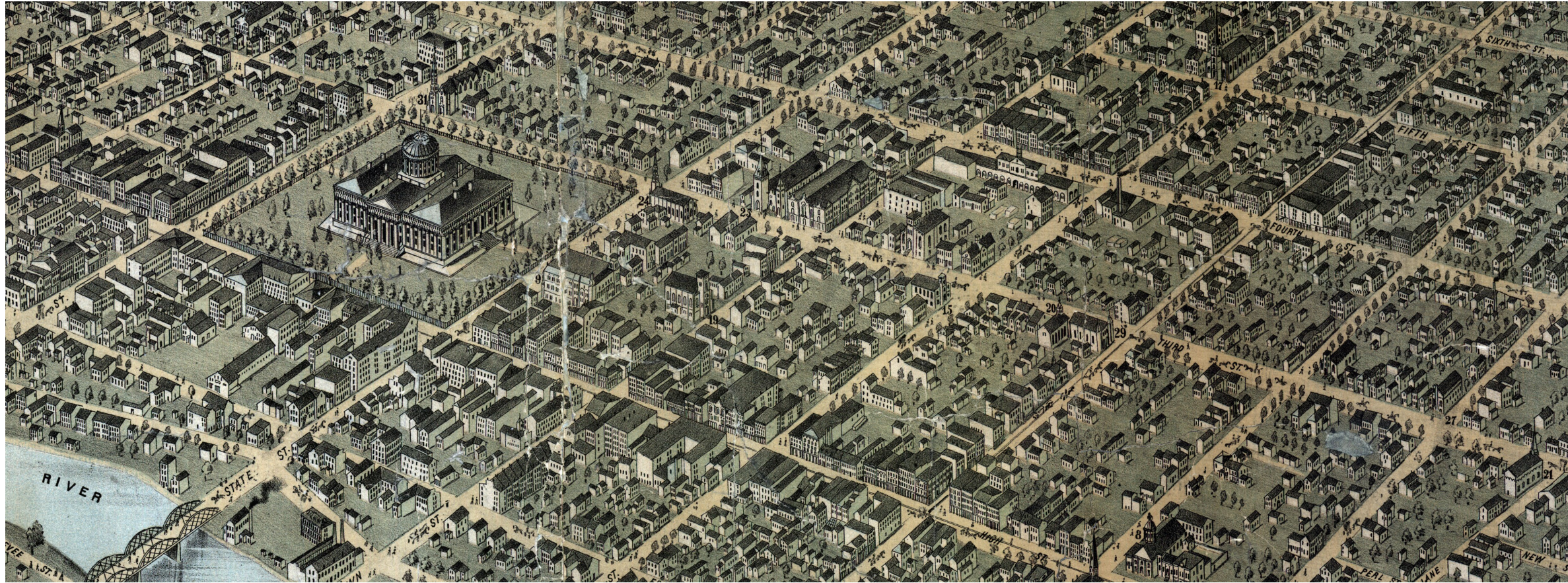
**äußerst billigen Preisen** zu überzeugen. Auch hält er reines **Kohlenöl und Kohlenlampen** von allen Gattungen und zu allen Preisen. Kommen Sie, meine Herren und Damen, das Besehen kostet nichts!

Achtungsvoll  
**Ferdinand Grether.**  
Dec. 24. '62. W u W

**John Grether,**  
DEALER IN  
**CROCKERY, GLASS**  
AND  
**CHINA WARE,**  
**CHRISTMAS TOYS.**  
OF ALL KINDS.  
**Best Coal Oil.**  
**Wholesale and Retail.**  
NO. 134 SOUTH HIGH STREET,  
COLUMBUS, O  
dec 1-dtf



# Columbus in 1872





On Thursday, Sept. 17, 1874, John Grether died a singularly unpleasant death at age 48, leaving behind a widow and three small children.

*The Ohio Statesman* reported, “Mr. John Grether, who has been a resident of Columbus for 20 years, died at his residence on East Town street, yesterday afternoon of diphtheritic fever, after an illness of about 10 days. The disease involves both the brain and the throat.”

Diphtheria, known as the “strangling angel of children,” killed by causing a thick film to develop in the throat, making it impossible to breath.

John Grether’s funeral at the Town street M.E. church on Sunday, Sept. 20, was “largely attended,” *The Columbus Dispatch* reported. “A sermon was preached by the pastor, Rev. James Hill, from I Samuel 20th Chap. 3rd verse: ‘There is but a step between me and death.’”

**DIED.**  
GRETHER—On Thursday, the 17th inst., at his late residence, No. 176 East Town street, JOHN GRETHER.  
The funeral will take place on Sunday, the 20th inst., at ten o'clock A. M., from the Town street M. E. Church. Friends of the family are invited to attend.



In the 1900 census Ferdinand was listed as an "inmate" of the county infirmary. He died there on Jun 23, 1910, at age 87, forgotten by all who knew and loved him. His death certificate lists as "unknown" whether he was married, when he was born, his occupation and his parents' names. He was buried that same day, apparently in an unmarked pauper's grave.

Form V. 3 No. 11-500M-2-1-09

STATE OF OHIO  
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS  
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

PLACE OF DEATH  
County of Franklin  
Township of Marion  
or  
Village of  
or  
City of (No. 60 Infirmary St.          Ward         )  
(If death occurs away from  
USUAL RESIDENCE  
Give facts called for under  
"Special Information.")

Registration District No. 186  
Primary Registration District No. 3366  
File No. 31909  
Registered No. 1547

FULL NAME Ferdinand Brothers

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

SEX Male COLOR OR RACE White  
DATE OF BIRTH Unknown 1823  
(Month) (Day) (Year)  
AGE 87 years,          months,          days.  
SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED Unknown  
BIRTHPLACE (State or Foreign Country) Ohio  
OCCUPATION  
NAME OF FATHER Unknown  
BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or Foreign Country) Unknown  
MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER Unknown  
BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or Foreign Country) Unknown  
THE ABOVE STATED PERSONAL PARTICULARS ARE TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF  
(Informant) Chas. K. Egler  
(Address) 60 Infirmary  
Filed 6/20 1910  
J. B. Davis Registrar

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

DATE OF DEATH June 23 1910  
(Month) (Day) (Year)  
I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from January 4 1910 to June 23 1910  
that I last saw him alive on June 23 1910  
and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at 10  
A. M. The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows:  
Gastric Enteritis  
(Duration)          Days  
Contributory  
(Duration)          Days  
(Signed) Robert B. Drury M. D.  
June 24 1910 (Address) 154 Cleveland Ave  
SPECIAL INFORMATION only for Hospitals, Institutions, Transients, or Recent Residents  
Former or Usual Residence 60 Infirmary How long at          Days  
Place of Death?           
Where was disease contracted, if not at place of death?  
PLACE OF BURIAL or REMOVAL near Hill Cemetery DATE OF BURIAL June 23 1910  
UNDERTAKER R. C. Jones & Son ADDRESS 601 Ohio

R. B.—Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, that it may be properly classified. The "Special Information" for parents should every item known should be given in every instance.

# JOHN GRETHER



IMPORTER misspelled as  
IMPORORTER  
Fuld obverse die 35370



Corrected die shows  
remnants of misspelled  
word below IMPORTER  
Fuld obverse die 35360

Fuld No.	Reverse	Reverse die	Obverse	Metal	Edge	Rarity
200A-1a	Indian	1037	IMPORTER	Copper	Reeded	R-7
200A-1b	Indian	1037	IMPORTER	Brass	Reeded	R-8
200A-1i	Indian	1037	IMPORTER	Zinc	Reeded	R-8
200A-2a	Indian	1042	IMPORTER	Copper	Reeded	R-6
200A-2a1	Indian	1042	IMPORTER	Copper	Plain	R-8
200A-2b	Indian	1042	IMPORTER	Brass	Reeded	R-8
200A-2i	Indian	1042	IMPORTER	Zinc	Reeded	R-9
200A-3a	Indian	1043	ERROR	Copper	Reeded	R-9
200A-3b	Indian	1043	ERROR	Brass	Reeded	R-10
200A-4d	Indian	1046	IMPORTER	Copper-nickel	Reeded	R-10
200A-5a	Indian	1047	IMPORTER	Copper	Reeded	R-9
200A-5d	Indian	1047	IMPORTER	Copper-nickel	Reeded	R-10
200A-6a	Indian	1042	ERROR	Copper	Reeded	R-9
200A-6b	Indian	1042	ERROR	Brass	Reeded	R-9
200A-6i	Indian	1042	ERROR	Zinc	Reeded	R-10

<b>Name:</b>	John Grether
<b>Business:</b>	China, crockery, glass
<b>Address:</b>	134 S. High St.
<b>Location:</b>	East side High St., south of State St.
<b>Current use:</b>	Fifth/Third Bank addition
<b>Legend:</b>	JOHN GRETHER/ IMPORTER/OF/ CHINA /&/ QUEENSWARE/COLUMBUS, O.
<b>Edge:</b>	Reeded (except 200A-2a1)
<b>Maker:</b>	John Stanton
<b>Varieties:</b>	15
<b>Number extant:</b>	121 to 284
<b>Notes:</b>	Three scarce varieties misspell “importer” as “impororter.”



## Misspelled obverse



Misspelled IMPORORTER  
Fuld obverse die 35370



Reverse 1042  
(Last star is closer  
to last feather.)



Reverse 1043  
(Last star is closer  
to eighth feather.)

All of the John Grether error tokens use 1863-dated Stanton Indian Head reverse dies. These can be incredibly difficult to tell apart. Fortunately for Columbus collectors, the choices are limited. The misspelled die is paired only with Reverse 1042 or 1043. Note the slight differences in position of the last two stars.

## Corrected obverse



Corrected die  
Fuld obverse die 35360



Reverse 1037  
(Last star is closer  
to eighth feather)



Reverse 1042  
(Last star is closer  
to last feather.)

The die was then reworked with the corrected spelling. Traces of the mistake are still visible. For 1863 dated pieces, two dies were used. Reverse 1037 and 1042 are fairly easy to tell apart. Die 1037 has the high date and the last feather is distant from the last star.



## 1864-dated tokens



Corrected die  
Fuld obverse die 35360



Reverse 1046  
(Last star is opposite  
eighth feather)



Reverse 1047  
(Last star is between the  
eighth and ninth feathers)

The corrected Grether die was also paired with two 1864 dated Indian Head dies (1046 and 1047). The three varieties produced are all considered numismatic strikes. The copper-nickel marriages are rated R-10 while the copper strikes are R-9.

Mary Ann Van Houten  
Born: Sept. 2, 1827





**MILLINERY.**---**To the Ladies of Columbus.**  
**MRS. BROCKLEHURST**, Milliner, High street, 2  
doors South of A. P. Stone & Co.'s, respectfully informs her  
former patrons and the Ladies generally, that she has just re-  
ceived the late Eastern fashions, with the assurance that they  
are the latest French fashions, and is now prepared to finish  
all orders in the latest French style, and requests the Ladies  
to call and examine them. She returns her sincere thanks for  
past favors, and hopes to merit a continuance of them.  
November 15, 1841.

**MINER'S PATENT PUMP.**

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On Feb. 16, 1848, Mary Ann Brocklehurst, 20, married Benjamin Romer Van Houten, 24, "at the DeWoolf farm in Orange Township," according to an inscription in the family Bible.



FAMILY RECORD.	
MARRIAGES.	MARRIAGES.
John Brocklehurst Mary Belfrage married at Presbury Christine England Feb 22 1846	Benjamin Romer Van Houten Mary Ann Brocklehurst at The DeWoolf Farm Orange Township Delaware to Ohio Feb 22 1848
	Mary Elizabeth first child of Benjamin & Mary Ann Van Houten



On Nov. 3, 1848, ads for "Mrs. Van Houten, Fancy Milliner" started appearing in the Ohio State Journal.

and will be happy to meet on all their patronage. aug3.

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 **MRS. VAN HOUTEN,**  
**FANCY MILLINER,** 

RETURNS her sincere thanks to the Ladies of Columbus and vicinity for their past patronage, and wishes to inform them that she will open a new and splendid assortment of Millinery and Fancy Goods, on Thursday. 9th of November. direct from Liverpool, and would hereby invite them to call and examine her selections before purchasing elsewhere. nov3 dtf.

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**New Tailoring and Dry Goods Establishment.**  
**L. P. PRESTON & CO.,**  
*(No 201, High Street, Corner of Rich Street,)*

**H**AVING secured the services of Mr. SEWELL as foreman, (whose well known skill in fitting needs no praise,) and also some of the best journeymen Tailors in the city, are prepared to manufacture all kinds of clothing in the neatest manner, and on short notice. Cutting for



MARY WIFE  
of  
JOHN  
BROCKLEHURST  
DIED JAN 3  
1849  
AGED 55 YEARS

No longer imprisoned in clay,  
Who next ~~from~~ his dungeon shalt fly,  
Who first shalt be summoned a day,  
My merciful Lord shall I see.



# Off to Australia

February 26, 1853 – August 9, 1853

"It may be one year or two from this time. It is hard to tell if I have as good luck as some I may return within a year from the time I started, but if I have, but ordinarily good luck, it will not take more than two years to accomplish what I desire and return, " Benjamin wrote in a long letter to his wife while rounding the Horn of Africa in July in the fifth month of his 165-day sail.

"We have been striving for the last five years to get along and keep square with the world and have come out behind every time and it seems to me that this is this trial."



The Euphrasia was 131 feet 7 inches long, 28 feet 5 inches wide and rode 14 feet in the water when fully loaded.

It had two decks, a square stern and a female figurehead on the bow.

248 passengers

### Mystery men

Joseph Darrah  
C. Rystedt

...being now ready for sea, will start on Saturday, the 22d inst. A few more passengers only will be taken. Apply to Captain Silas Hardy, on board, at pier No. 8 North river, foot of Rector street.

**A**USTRALIAN PIONEER LINE.—THE NOBLE A 1 packet ship **EUPHRASIA**, 1,200 tons burthen, coppered and copper fastened, will succeed the Baltimore, as seventh ship of this line, and sail for Melbourne, Port Philip, on the 10th of February. The **Euphrasia** is admirably adapted for passengers, and it is sufficient to add that she will be provisioned and fitted out in the same liberal style as the ships that have preceded her in this line. Four of the ships of the Pioneer Line have arrived in Australia before this date, and it is now well established that none of the ships despatched by the subscribers will have to put into any port for supplies, as they are amply provisioned for double the length of voyage. As the **Euphrasia** will sail direct for Port Philip, it is expected that she will make the voyage in a less time than any ship advertised. An early application for passage is recommended, as the Baltimore sailed with a full complement of freight and passengers in exactly twenty-nine days after the departure of her predecessors. For freight or passage apply to

JOHN OGDEN, or R. W. CAMERON, 116 Wall street.

**F**OR SAVANNAH—U. S. MAIL LINE—THE SUPERIOR steamship Alabama, Captain C. D. Ludlow, on Saturday, 22d January, 1853, at three o'clock P. M., from pier



# Canvas Town, Melbourne

Population: 5,000-6,000

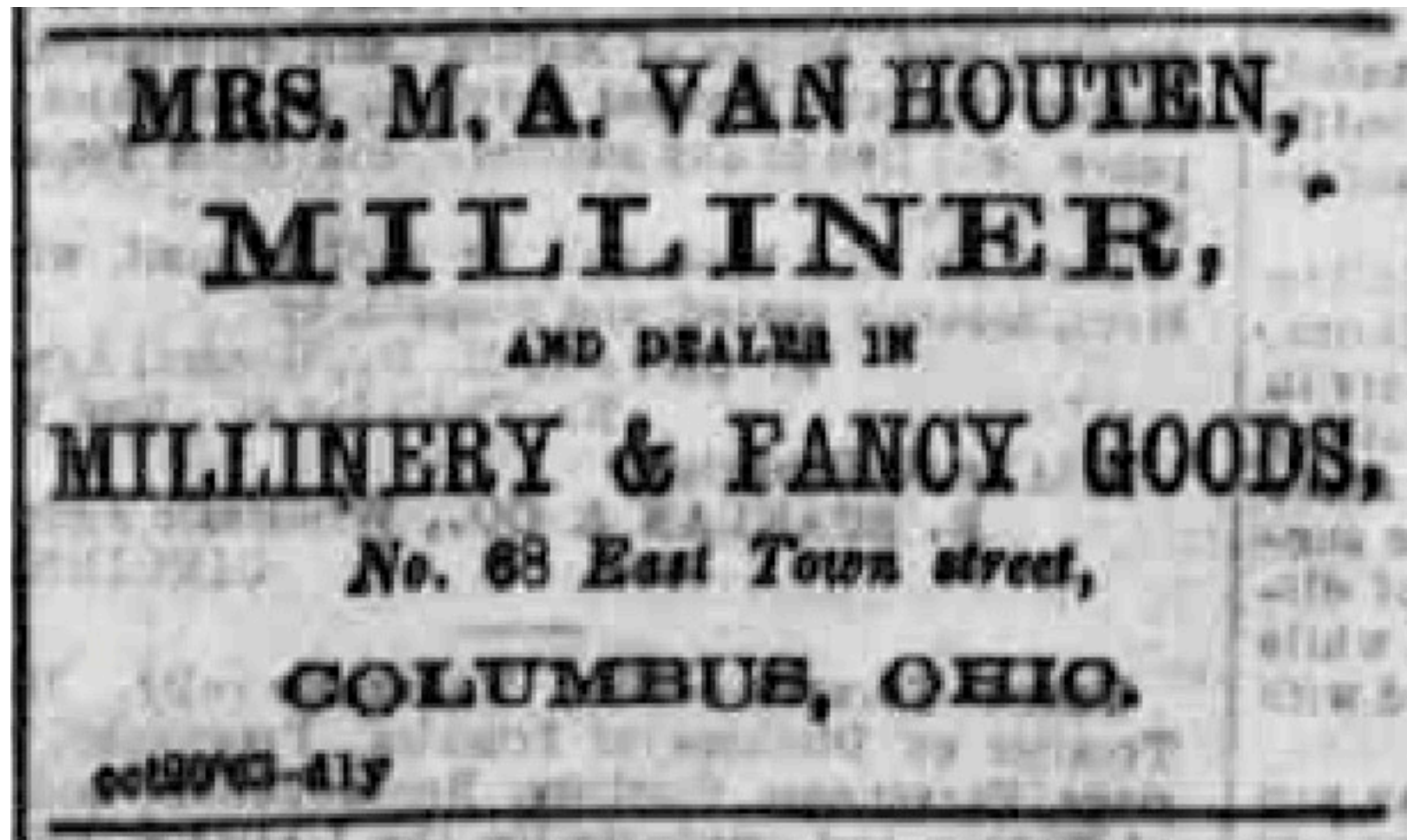
Tents: 600-700

Nov. 1852 - March 1853

"I hope that I have not said anything that would encourage any of my friends to start for this place," Benjamin wrote in September 1853. "Some of the passengers that came out with me are starting back and working their passage." In January he joined them.



Mrs. Van Houten moved to 68 E. Town St., the address listed on her token, in 1862.





# May 1864

May 1 – Mary Ann learns that her 27-year-old brother, John, had died in Alabama. A sergeant in the 10<sup>th</sup> Ohio Cavalry, he contracted pneumonia and died.

May 2 – She watches her husband march off to war in a cold rain. He was one of 35,000 Ohioans called to serve 100 days behind the lines at a critical phase of the Civil War.

Mary Ann is six month's pregnant and has a 12-year-old and a toddler at home.





## LOCAL NOTICES.

### Business Change.

Mrs. M. A. Van Houten, having transferred her entire stock of Millinery to E. E. Comstock & Co., desires to thank her friends and patrons for their past favors, and hopes they will continue to call at the old stand where they may confidently expect to find a full and well selected stock of millinery goods of the first and most approved styles of the season.

Respectfully,

MRS. M. A. VAN HOUTEN.

E. E. Comstock & Co., successors to Mrs. M. A. Van Houten, have a large stock of trimmed hats and bonnets, which they will sell at greatly reduced prices. Please call before buying elsewhere. Particular attention paid to straw work, also kid gloves cleaned. No. 63 N. High street. 11ed3t



July 8, 1898

**Mrs. Mary A. Van Houten Dead.**

Mrs. Mary A. Van Houten died unexpectedly Friday in Columbus, O., from the infirmities of advanced age. She had left here only last Monday in apparently good health for a visit in Columbus. She was seventy-two years of age. Three daughters and one son survive. The remains have been brought to Louisville. The funeral will take place from the residence, 822 Eighteenth street, at 4 o'clock to-morrow afternoon.

# MRS. M.A. VAN HOUTEN



OH200-H  
Fuld obverse die 35440



Reverse 1127  
Mercury or Hermes  
Fuld OH200H-1a

Fuld No.	Reverse	Reverse die	Metal	Edge	Rarity
200H-1a	Mercury	1127	Copper	Plain	R-6